

**Amendments to the Claims:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

**Listing of claims:**

1. (Original) Adhesive and sealant systems based on epoxy resins, polyurethane, silane-terminated polymers, silicones, unsaturated polyester resins, vinyl ester resins, acrylates, polyvinyl acetate, polyvinyl alcohol, polyvinyl ether, ethylene vinyl acetate, ethylene-acrylic acid copolymers, polyvinyl acetates, polystyrene, polyvinyl chloride, styrene-butadiene rubber, chloroprene rubber, nitrile rubber, butyl rubber, polysulfide, polyethylene, polypropylene, fluorinated hydrocarbons, polyamides, saturated polyesters and copolyesters, phenol-formaldehyde resins, cresol-/resorcinol-formaldehyde resins, urea-formaldehyde resins, melamine-formaldehyde resins, polyimides, polybenzimidazoles, polysulfones, characterised in that they contain 1 wt.% to 15 wt.% of a compacted hydrophobic, pyrogenic silica.
2. (New) The adhesive and/or sealant system according to claim 1 wherein the silica displays a compacted bulk density of 60 g/l to 200 g/l.
3. (New) A method for reducing the time needed to prepare thixotropic adhesives and sealants comprising incorporating a compacted hydrophobic silica in the amount of 1 wt% to 15 wt% into a member selected from the group consisting of epoxy resins, polyurethane, silane-terminated polymers, silicones, unsaturated polyester resins, vinyl ester resins, acrylates, polyvinyl acetate, polyvinyl alcohol, polyvinyl ether, ethylene vinyl acetate, ethylene-acrylic acid copolymers, polyvinyl acetates, polystyrene, polyvinyl chloride, styrene-butadiene rubber, chloroprene rubber, nitrile rubber, butyl rubber, polysulfide, polyethylene, polypropylene, fluorinated hydrocarbons, polyamides, saturated polyesters and copolyesters, phenol-formaldehyde resins, cresol-/resorcinol-formaldehyde resins, urea-formaldehyde resins, melamine-formaldehyde resins, polyimides, polybenzimidazoles, and polysulfones.

4. (New) The method according to claim 3 wherein the silica displays a compacted bulk density of 60 g/l to 200 g/l.
5. (New) The method according to claim 3 wherein the time needed to prepare the thixotropic adhesives and sealants is shorter than would be with compacted hydrophobic silicas having a compacted bulk density of 50 g/l.